

### Claim Status and Amendments

Please consider the claims according to its status as set forth below:

Claims 1-23 (withdrawn)

Claim 24. (currently amended)      A method for performing multiple rounds of plastid transformations in a plant cell plastid using the same selectable marker ~~gene~~ for selection of transplastomic plants comprising:

introducing into a plant cell a first recombinant DNA sequence comprising a construct capable of being integrated into the plastid genome of the plant cell, said construct comprising an expression cassette comprising a DNA sequence of interest to be expressed in the plastid and a selectable marker cassette comprising a promoter that initiates expression of an operably linked DNA sequence in a plant plastid, a DNA sequence encoding a protein that permits for the selection of a transformed plastid selectable marker gene protein that permits for the selection of a transformed plastid and a 3' transcription termination region, said selectable marker, said selectable marker cassette flanked by a pair of compatible recombining sites arranged in parallel orientation as direct repeats, to produce a plant cell having a plastid containing said first recombinant DNA sequence;

providing a recombinase compatible to said pair of compatible recombining sites to said plant cell to permit excision of said DNA sequence encoding a protein that permits for the selection of a transformed plastid~~selectable marker gene~~ and producing excision of said ~~selectable marker gene~~DNA sequence,

regenerating a transplastomic plant containing said first recombinant DNA sequence without said ~~selectable marker gene~~DNA sequence encoding a protein that permits for the selection of a transformed plastid from said plant cell,

introducing a second recombinant DNA sequence comprising a construct capable of being integrated into the plastid genome of the plant cell, said construct comprising a second expression cassette comprising a DNA sequence of interest to be expressed in said plastid and a second selectable marker cassette comprising a promoter that initiates expression of an operably linked DNA sequence in a plant plastid, a DNA sequence

encoding a protein that permits for the selection of a transformed plastid and a 3' transcription termination region, said selectable marker gene into a plant cell of said transplastomic plant obtained from said regenerated plant thereby producing a plastid having said second recombinant DNA sequence in said plant cell of said transplastomic plant; and

producing a transplastomic plant having said first and second recombinant DNA sequences introduced sequentially into said plastid using the same selectable marker gene for the second recombinant DNA sequence as used for the selection of the first recombinant DNA sequence.

25. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said recombinase is provided to said plant cells by introducing a third recombinant DNA sequence comprising in an operably coupled 5' to 3' manner:

a transcriptional initiation region, a plastid targeting region, and a nucleic acid sequence encoding recombinase.

26. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said ~~construct~~ in said first recombinant DNA sequence further comprises a DNA sequence encoding a DNA sequence of interest in said first or second expression cassette provides for herbicide resistance to said plant cell ~~other than a selectable marker gene outside of said pair of compatible recombining sites.~~

Claims 27-31 (canceled).

32. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said pair of compatible recombining sites is selected from the group consisting of Lox, FRT, and R.

Claims 33-35 (withdrawn)